

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/014,333	AOKI, KENJI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian E. Miller	2652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 3/7/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-11 (renumbered as 1-3, 5-9, 4, respectively).
3. The drawings filed on 2/21/02 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



Brian E. Miller
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2652

Claims 3-11 are now pending.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art made of record considered as a whole neither shows, nor renders obvious the overall combination of (with respect to claim 3) a head for reading and writing data from and to a magnetic tape including first and second chip assemblies; and at least one groove formed on both sides of the read/write gap line on each of the first and second chip assemblies and extending substantially parallel to the read/write gap line; wherein each of the grooves have a width which is greater than or equal to a width of a wall portion separating the grooves on both sides of each the read/write gap line, and a depth which is greater than or equal to the width of the grooves, such that the tape running surface of the first and second chip assemblies have a curved portion along respective circular lines having respective centers which are offset a predetermined distance from a center line where the first and second chip assemblies are joined.

With respect to claim 6, a head for reading and writing data from and to a magnetic tape including first and second chip assemblies; and at least one groove formed on both sides of the read/write gap line on each of the first and second chip assemblies and extending substantially parallel to the read/write gap line; wherein each of the grooves have a width which is greater than or equal to a width of a wall portion separating the grooves on both sides of each the read/write gap line, and a depth which is greater than or equal to the width of the grooves, wherein each of the first and second chip assemblies includes a first block having a substantially planar first surface and a second block having first and second surfaces, the first surface of the

first block being attached to the first surface of the second block, and the second surface of the second block of the first chip assembly is adhered to the second surface of the second block of the second chip assembly, such that the read/write gap line on each the first and second chip assemblies are formed in an area where the first block and the second block are joined.

The closest prior art in Wang (US 6,690,542), does disclose a width dimension for the “wall” and grooves which would meet the claim limitation(s), however, remains silent as to any correlation of the width to the depth of the grooves as also required by the claims.

It is considered that only impermissible hindsight could be imposed to render the claim(s) obvious in view of the prior art of record. Therefore, the claims are considered patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian E. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7578. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 7:15am-4:45pm (and every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



B. Miller
Brian E. Miller
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

BEM
March 15, 2005